



For Immediate Release
May 14, 2009

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Health Professions Education Foundation Honors De La Torre for His Work to Fund Rural and Inner-City Doctors

Sacramento, Calif. – The Health Professions Education Foundation today honored Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate) for his efforts in securing permanent funding for the Steven M. Thompson Program. The Program grants loan forgiveness to doctors who commit to practice in inner-city and rural communities for three years. Created in 2002, the Program has placed over 94 doctors across the State.

WHO: Gary Gitnick, M.D., Chair
Health Professions Education Foundation Board

WHAT: Give recognition to Assemblymember Hector De La Torre for authoring AB 2439, which converted a \$50 voluntary donation for the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program (Thompson Program) into a \$25 mandatory contribution paid by physicians and surgeons when they apply or renew their licenses.

WHY: This new law is expected to generate over \$1.5 million per year to fund the Thompson Program. The Medical Board of California will require a mandatory \$25 fee for the Thompson Program in addition to the initial \$805 license and license renewal fees paid by physicians and surgeons.

Specifically, the Thompson Program provides an estimated \$105,000 in loan reimbursements to physicians who practice medicine in an underserved community for a minimum of three years. Prior to this legislation, the Program was not widely utilized because funding was largely dependent on a \$50 voluntary contribution that resulted in a \$55,000 budget in 2007.

WHEN: Thursday, May 14, 2009
11 a.m.

WHERE: Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development
Sacramento Office
400 R Street, Suite 460
Sacramento, CA 95811

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